

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please insert new claims 29-30. A complete listing of the claims is provided below for the Examiner's convenience.

1. (Previously Presented) A binaural hearing aid system comprising
a first hearing aid and a second hearing aid, each of which comprising
a microphone and an A/D converter for provision of a digital input signal
in response to sound signals received at the respective microphone in a sound
environment surrounding a user of the binaural hearing aid system,
a processor that is configured to process the digital input signal in
accordance with a predetermined signal processing algorithm to generate a
processed output signal,
a D/A converter and an output transducer for conversion of the respective
processed output signal to an acoustic output signal, and
a binaural sound environment detector for binaural determination of the
sound environment, the binaural sound environment detector comprising
a feature extractor for determination of characteristic parameters of
the received sound signals,
an environment classifier for categorizing the sound environment
based at least in part on the determined characteristic parameters, and
a parameter map for provision of an output for a selection of the
signal processing algorithm,
wherein each of the parameter maps of the first and second hearing aid is configured to
receive a first output from the environment classifier of the first hearing aid and a second output
from the environment classifier of the second hearing aid, and generate the output for the
selection of the signal processing algorithm.

2-8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 1, wherein the first output corresponds with an environment classification determined by the environment classifier of the first hearing aid, and the second output corresponds with an environment classification determined by the environment classifier of the second hearing aid
10. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 1, wherein the environment classifier of each of the first and second hearing aids is configured to communicate wirelessly.
11. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 1, wherein first output and the second output are in digital form.
12. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 1, wherein an interval between data communication between the first and second hearing aids is at least 250 ms.
13. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 1, wherein the environment classifier of either the first or the second hearing aid is configured to categorize the sound environment as an environment class selected from the group consisting of speech, babble speech, restaurant clatter, music and traffic noise.
14. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 1, wherein the first output of the environment classifier of the first hearing aid comprises a plurality of values corresponding to probabilities of sound belonging to different environment classes.
15. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 1, wherein the first output of the environment classifier of the first hearing aid corresponds to a selection of an environment class from a plurality of environment classes.

16. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 1, wherein the first input or the second input comprises information regarding a time interval between two events of data transmission.

17. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 1, wherein the parameter map of the first or second hearing aid is configured to control at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of an amount of noise reduction, an amount of broadband gain, an amount of frequency specific gain, a corner frequency of a frequency selective filter, a slope of a frequency selective filter, a knee-point of an AGC algorithm, a compression ratio of an AGC algorithm, and a directionality of a microphone.

18 (Previously Presented) A binaural hearing aid system having a first hearing aid, the first hearing aid comprising:

- a microphone and an A/D converter for provision of a digital signal in response to sound signal received at the microphone in a sound environment surrounding a user of the binaural hearing aid system;

- a processor that is configured to process the digital signals in accordance with a predetermined signal processing algorithm to generate a processed output signal;

- a D/A converter and an output transducer for conversion of the processed output signal to an acoustic output signal;

- a feature extractor for determination of characteristic parameters of the received sound signals;

- an environment classifier for categorizing the sound environment based at least in part on the determined characteristic parameters; and

- a parameter map for provision of an output for a selection of the signal processing algorithm;

- wherein the parameter map is configured to receive a first output from the environment classifier and a second output from an environment classifier of a second hearing aid, and generate the output for the selection of the signal processing algorithm.

19. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 18, wherein the first output corresponds with an environment classification determined by the environment classifier of the first hearing aid, and the second output corresponds with an environment classification determined by the environment classifier of the second hearing aid.

20. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 18, wherein the environment classifier of the first hearing aid is configured to communicate wirelessly to a parameter map of the second hearing aid.

21. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 18, wherein first output and the second output are in digital form.

22. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 18, wherein an interval between data communication between the first and second hearing aids is at least 250 ms.

23. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 18, wherein the environment classifier of the first hearing aid is configured to categorize the sound environment as an environment class selected from the group consisting of speech, babble speech, restaurant clatter, music and traffic noise.

24. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 18, wherein the first output of the environment classifier of the first hearing aid comprises a plurality of values corresponding to probabilities of sound belonging to different environment classes.

25. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 18, wherein the first output of the environment classifier of the first hearing aid corresponds to a selection of an environment class from a plurality of environment classes.

26. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 18, wherein the first input or the second input comprises information regarding a time interval between two events of data transmission.

27. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 18, wherein the parameter map of the first hearing aid is configured to control at least one parameter selected from the group consisting of an amount of noise reduction, an amount of broadband gain, an amount of frequency specific gain, a corner frequency of a frequency selective filter, a slope of a frequency selective filter, a knee-point of an AGC algorithm, a compression ratio of an AGC algorithm, and a directionality of a microphone.

28. (Previously Presented) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 18, further comprising the second hearing aid.

29. (New) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 1, wherein each of the parameter maps of the first and second hearing aid is configured to generate the output for the selection of the signal processing algorithm based on the first output from the environment classifier of the first hearing aid and the second output from the environment classifier of the second hearing aid.

30. (New) The binaural hearing aid system of claim 18, wherein the parameter map is configured to generate the output for the selection of the signal processing algorithm based on the first output from the environment classifier and the second output from an environment classifier of a second hearing aid.